

REMARKS

Claims 4-8, 25-29, and 41-44 are pending.

DOUBLE PATENTING

In the present Office Action, claims 4-8, 25-29, 41, and 43 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,377,978. While the Applicant does not necessarily agree with the rejections, Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer in order to facilitate speedy allowance of the present application.

Applicant believes all claims to be in condition for allowance. However, should the examiner believe issues remain, the below signed representative requests a telephone interview at (512) 853-8866 to facilitate a speedy resolution.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5957-13101/RDR.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Rory D. Rankin /

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